

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 8 and 9. These sheets, which include Figures 8 and 9, replace the original sheets including Figs. 8-9. Applicants respectfully submit that no substantive new matter has been added. Acceptance of these drawings is respectfully requested.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to an Office Action mailed April 5, 2006. In the Office Action, claims 19 and 21-23 were allowed. However, objections were made to the drawings, Abstract and claim 33. Claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 while claims 1, 2, 11, 12, 15, 18, 25, 26, 32 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 and claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103. Reconsideration in light of the amendments and remarks made herein is respectfully requested.

It is noted that the front cover of the Office Action is incorrect since the withdrawn claims are not properly listed. As stated in the Office Action, claims 1-3, 11-12, 15-16, 18-19, 21-23, 25-28, 32 and 33 are currently under examination. Therefore, claims 4-10, 13-14, 17, 20, 24, 29-31 and 34 should be considered withdrawn at this time. Confirmation is respectfully requested.

Request for Examiner's Interview

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone at the phone number listed below if, after review, such claims are still not in condition for allowance. The undersigned attorney strongly believes that this telephone conference would greatly facilitate the examination of the subject application.

Abstract

Applicants have amended the Abstract to correct a typographical error. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the outstanding objection directed to the Abstract.

Drawings

Applicants have attached corrected drawings sheets to replace objected Figures 8 and 9. No substantive new matter has been added to these figures. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the outstanding objection directed to the drawings.

Claim Objections

Claim 33 is objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.75(c) as allegedly being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicants respectfully traverse the objection because claim 32 is directed to a first input adapted to receive *power* from a first neighboring connector module while claim 33 is directed to “a cascade serial communication interface adapted for coupling to a serial communication interface of the first neighboring connector module.” The serial communication interface enables serial data communications, and thus, is not directed to the supply of power.

Withdrawal of the outstanding objection of claim 33 is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being allegedly indefinite. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection because the term “magnetics” has been generally defined in the specification and this term is used in the industry. However, Applicants have amended the claim to focus on the filtering circuitry aspect of the magnetics.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the § 112 rejection as applied to claim 15.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 11, 12, 15, 18, 25, 26, 32, & 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2003/0099076 A1 (Elkayam). Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection because a *prima facie* case of anticipation has not been established.

As the Examiner is aware, to anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim. “A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.” *Vergegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ 2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

“The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the...claim.”
Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co., 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ 2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

For instance, as set forth in independent claims 1, 15 and 25, the claimed invention is directed to a “connector module” with circuitry to perform Power-over-Ethernet (PoE) operations by supplying power through the jack. The “connector module” is a component mounted to a circuit board, not the boards themselves. *See paragraph [0057] of the subject application.* In contrast, Elkayam is directed to a daughter card/motherboard implementation and does not describe the “connector module” implementation as claimed.

The teachings of Elkayam are consistent with the prior art teachings involving deployment of PoE circuitry within multiple card layouts as described in the General Background section set forth in paragraph [0004] of the subject application:

Currently, PoE circuitry is deployed within a switching device by installing a *customized daughter card* that supports discrete as well as integrated IEEE 802.3af features. The *daughter card is connected to a motherboard* of the switching device. Thus, *multiple design layouts for the motherboard are needed; one layout to accommodate PoE circuitry and another layout to accommodate the absence of PoE circuitry.* Multiple board designs are costly to maintain and unacceptable delays have been experienced when introducing a PoE version of a switching device following the initial switch release. *Emphasis added.*

In addition, claims 25, 32 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2002/0002672 A1 (Mouton). Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection because a *prima facie* case of anticipation has not been established. More specifically, on page 11 of the Office Action, the Examiner contends that a cabinet concentrator (WCH1) constitutes the connector module as claimed. Applicants respectfully disagree because the “cabinet concentrator” product constitutes a “hub” that is deployed within a cabinet for mounting purposes. Cabinet concentrators do not describe or suggest the connector module as claimed. As previously stated, the connector module is a component mounted to a circuit board as described on paragraph [0057] of the subject application.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the outstanding §102 rejection.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Elkayam in view of Binder (U.S. Publication No. 2005/0047431). Moreover, claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Elkayam in view of Pannell (U.S. Patent No. 6,977,507). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections because a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established.

As the Examiner is aware, to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify a reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. *See MPEP §2143; see also In Re Fine, 873 F. 2d 1071, 5 U.S.P.Q.2D 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988).* Herein, the combined teachings of the cited references fail to describe or suggest all the claim limitations.

With respect to both claims 3 and 16, Applicants respectfully submit that neither Elkayam, Binder nor Pannell, alone or in any combination, teaches or suggests PoE functionality within a connector module as claimed. In addition, based on the dependency of claims 3 and 16 on independent claims 1 and 15, believed by Applicants to be in condition for allowance, no further discussion as to the grounds for traverse is warranted. Applicants reserve the right to present such arguments in an Appeal is warranted.

Withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection as applied to claims 3 and 16 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

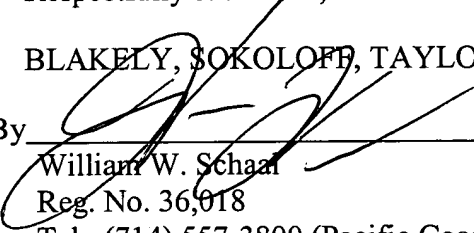
In view of the remarks made above, it is respectfully submitted that pending claims 1-3, 11-12, 15-16, 18-19, 21-23, 25-28, 32 and 33 define the subject invention over the prior art of record. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that all the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application. To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 02-2666 and please credit any excess fees to such account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: June 30, 2006

By


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